

A NOTEWORTHY UNDESCRIBED CRANE-FLY FROM TROPICAL AMERICA (DIPTERA, TIPULIDAE).

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In a collection of Tipulidae from South and Central America belonging to the United States National Museum and kindly sent to me for determination by Dr. Alan Stone, a most outstanding new crane-fly was found. This large and handsome fly belongs to the genus *Pselliophora* Osten Sacken, all other species of which are restricted to the Oriental, eastern Palaearctic and extreme western Australasian regions. Many years ago, Dr. P. Speiser (*in litt.*) mentioned that he had seen a *Pselliophora* from Central America but apparently he has never recorded this in print.

It should be observed that this is the first record of a member of the subtribe Ctenophoraria in the Neotropical Region. The only genus in the group that occurs in the western United States and Canada is *Malpighia* Enderlein, quite distinct from the present fly. How the *Pselliophora* reached Central America provides a problem in geographical distribution that is not readily answerable at the present time.

***Pselliophora mesamericana* sp. n.**

General coloration orange, the thorax unpatterned; antennal flagellum black, the extreme tip of the axis of the basal segments more reddened; all flagellar branches with abundant pale pubescence; outer pair of branches about three-fourths the length of the basal pair; legs black, the central portion of the tibiae a trifle brightened; wings butter-yellow, with two broad dark brown crossbands, the outer one apical, the other before the level of origin of *Rs*; a small brown axillary spot; abdomen yellow, the posterior borders of the segments orange; a single large median black area on tergites five to seven, inclusive.

Male: Length about 20 mm.; wing 18 mm.; antenna about 7 mm.

Frontal prolongation of head short, orange throughout; palpi obscure yellow, the terminal segment darkened on outer portion. Antennae (male) with the scape obscure yellow; pedicel and first flagellar segment dark fulvous brown; remainder of antennae black, the extreme apices of the segments a little reddened; outer pair of flagellar branches shorter than the basal pair, approximately three-fourths as long and a trifle more slender; all branches densely clothed with an erect pubescence.

Head orange; vertical tubercle scarcely developed; a small darker spot adjoining inner margin of eye immediately behind each antennal fossa.

Thorax uniformly orange, without pattern. Halteres orange, the stem weakly darkened. Legs with the coxae and trochanters orange; remainder of legs black, the central portion of tibiae vaguely brightened. Wings handsomely patterned with dark brown on a butter-yellow ground, the dark including two major complete crossbands, the outer one involving the apex as far basad as the level of the cord, the extreme base of cell *1st M*₂ and the proximal half of cell *M*₄ remaining of the yellow ground; second dark band nearly parallel-sided or slightly more widened in the cells of posterior half of wing, the outer margin of band reaching the origin of *Rs*, the inner edge the distal sixth or seventh of cell *2nd A*; in addition to the darkened bands, a large brown axillary spot in cell *2nd A*; veins orange-yellow in the ground, more blackened in the dark areas. Venation: *Rs* long and nearly straight, nearly three times the arcuated *m-cu*; cell *M*₁ very short-petiolate to barely sessile.

Abdomen yellow, the segments more orange on their posterior portions; a large median black area involving tergites five to seven, inclusive; posterior border of tergite four confluent with this marking but paler; hypopygium obscure orange. Male hypopygium relatively small and short, cylindrical, slightly uptilted; ninth tergite with the caudal border narrowly bordered by black and weakly toothed, the most distinct denticles on either side of a shallow median emargination. Dististyles heavily blackened, the expanded tips with numerous blackened spines to produce a mace-like effect.

Habitat: Guatemala, Central America.

Holotype: ♂, Cayuga, August (*Schaus & Barnes*); type in United States National Museum.

The discovery of a true *Pselliophora* in the New World adds still another to the constantly increasing list of Old World genera and subgenera of Tipulidae that are being discovered in Tropical America. Compared with the very numerous (about 80) species of the genus in the Old World, the present fly is abundantly distinct in the wing pattern which is different from any other species known to me. Members of the genus show a considerable range in variation of body and wing coloration within a single species and it is therefore very possible that the present fly will be found to vary somewhat within a series of specimens.